Old Alabama State Capitol Capitol Park Tuscaloosa Tuscaloosa County Alabama HABS No. AL-867

HABS ALA 63-TUSLO,

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey National Park Service Department of the Interior Washington, D.C. 20240 United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Washington, D.C. 20240

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

HABS ALA 63-TUSLO

STATE	COUNTY .	•	TOWN OR VICINITY	Y
Alabama	Tuscaloosa		Tuscaloosa	
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)			<del> </del>	HABS NO.
Old Alabama State Capitol				AL-867
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE				
01d Capitol				
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
Facing E in Capitol Park, We	end of Broad	l St. at 28th Ave.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)			
1828–1829		William Nichols		
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)				
Alabama State Capitol, 1829-J	1846; housed	d Alabama Central Fe	male College afte	er
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)				·
	LUDE STRUCT	URAL SYSTEMS)		
	mmr (Cvrma	THE THOOP BY AND ON	CERARA DA CECCA AS	
	nd rear, th	ree stories, low pa	rapeted hipped ro	oof, dome
Central pavilion embellished with Ionic columns, small one-story Doric entrance porches				
at N and S ends				
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)  Central rotunda with flanking legislative chambers occupying upper two floors. Regency-				
like interior detail.				
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITION	NS WITH DAT	ES		
- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	itory erect	ed to SW rear in 18	61	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	by fire in	1923		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIA	VTE			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUI	OING LISTING	ON NATIONAL REGIST	TER STATE RECIST	PERS ETC )
The state of the s				
<b>)</b>				
COMPTIED ARETITATION			Inage	
Lack Barker In UARS Wi			DATE	a 9 10v3
	Alabama HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (II old Alabama State Capitol SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF SOLID COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOUTED Facing E in Capitol Park, Westering E in Capitol Park, W	Alabama  Tuscalor  HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOUR Old Alabama State Capitol  SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Old Capitol  COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR Facing E in Capitol Park, Wend of Broad DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1828-1829  SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC Alabama State Capitol, 1829-1846; housed  STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)  MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCT Brick and Granite  SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETC Cross-shaped, approx. 120 x 80' ove center pavilions front and rear, the EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Central pavilion embellished with I at N and S ends  INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOO) Central rotunda with flanking legis like interior detail.  MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DAT Separate four-story dormitory erect PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Entire complex destroyed by fire in OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE  SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING COMPILER, AFFILIATION)	Alabama  HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)  Old Alabama State Capitol  SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE  Old Capitol  COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)  Facing E in Capitol Park, W end of Broad St. at 28th Ave.  DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE)  ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE 1828-1829  SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINA Alabama State Capitol, 1829-1846; housed Alabama Central Fed  STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)  MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)  Brick and Granite  SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON CROSS-Shaped, approx. 120 x 80' overall (nine-bay from center pavilions front and rear, three stories, low pa  EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE  Central pavilion embellished with Ionic columns, small at N and S ends  INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKE Central rotunda with flanking legislative chambers occulike interior detail.  MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES  Separate four-story dormitory erected to SW rear in 18  PRESENT CONDITION AND USE  Entire complex destroyed by fire in 1923  OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE  SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGIS)  COMPILER, AFFILIATION	Alabama Tuscaloosa Tuscaloosa  HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)  Old Alabama State Capitol  SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE  Old Capitol  COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)  Facing E in Capitol Park, W and of Broad St. at 28th Ave.  DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE)  1828-1829  ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)  1828-1829  SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURAL Alabama State Capitol, 1829-1846; housed Alabama Central Female College after an Additional Construction (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)  Brick and Granite  SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETGHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES AN CROSS-shaped, approx. 120° x 80° overall (nine-bay front with three-bay center pavilions front and rear, three stories, low parapeted hipped re EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE  CENTRAL Pavilion embellished with Ionic columns, small one-story Doric at N and S ends  INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)  Central pavilion embellished with Ionic columns, small one-story Doric at N and S ends  INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)  Central provision embellished with Ionic columns, small one-story Doric at N and S ends  INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)  Central provision embellished with Ionic columns, small one-story Doric at N and S ends  INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)  Central rotunda with flanking legislative chambers occupying upper two like interior detail.  MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES  Separate four-story dormitory erected to SW rear in 1861  PRESENT CONDITION AND USE  Entire complex destroyed by fire in 1923  COMPILER, AFFILIATION  DATE

ADDENDUM TO
OLD ALABAMA STATE CAPITOL
(Old Capitol)
Broad Street
Tuscaloesa
Tuscaloesa County
Alabama

HABS No. AL-867
HABS
ALA
63-TUSLO,

WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HABS ALA 63-TUSLO,

ADDENDUM TO
OLD ALABAMA STATE CAPITOL
(Old Capitol)
HABS No. AL-867
(Page 2)

#### HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

# OLD ALABAMA STATE CAPITOL (Old Capitol)

HABS No. AL-867

Location:

Childress Hill, 28th Avenue, between 5th and 6th Streets, Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama.

Date of

Construction:

1827-1829

Description:

Archaeological investigations under the direction of several local historical groups are currently underway to determine exact structural remnants.

Project

Information:

This report is based on written documentation donated by the Birmingham Historical Society, reformatted to HABS/HAER guidelines.

Historical Overview:

From 1825 to 1846, Tuscaloosa served as capital of Alabama. State legislators moved the capital here due to severe flooding of the first site at Cahaba (1820-1825). Sited on a high bluff above the Warrior River at the terminus of steamboat navigation coming from the south and at the end of the Huntsville Road (called Broad St. in the 19th century and later University Boulevard) coming from the north, Tuscaloosa seemed well-suited for this choice. In 1827, stone foundations were laid and construction of the \$100,000 classically styled capitol begun. William Nichols of Philadelphia, the architect who designed the University of Alabama's early campus, also drew plans for this building. Complete with cupola visible throughout the early city and from the river, the Capitol opened its doors in 1829.

In 1846, legislators again moved the capital to Montgomery, the geographic center of the state. The Capitol Building at Tuscaloosa burned in the 1920s.

ADDENDUM TO
OLD ALABAMA STATE CAPITOL
(Old Capitol)
HABS No. AL-867
(Page 3)

### Sources Consulted

Site Visit, 8/12/91

Tuscaloosa Ct. Site Survey, 105